

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 087127
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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 087127

NODIS

E.O. 11652, GDS

TAGS: MASS, EG, US

SUBJECT:REQUEST FOR APC'S

REF: CAIRO 9429

1. EGYPTIANS IN WASHINGTON HAVE NOT RAISED ISSUE OF APC'S WITH EITHER DEPARTMENT OR DOD. HOWEVER, GIVEN GAMASY'S CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR (REFTEL) IT IS POSSIBLE THEY WILL DO SO WHEN GHORBAL RETURNS.
2. DEPARTMENT AND DOD DO NOT BELIEVE THIS IS PROPITIOUS TIME TO CONSIDER SALE OF APC'S TO EGYPT. FIRST AND FOREMOST CONSIDERATION IS POTENTIAL NEGATIVE IMPACT ON PRESENT CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED SALE OF F-5'S. EVEN THOUGH IN NARROW LEGAL SENSE IT WOULD BE

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POSSIBLE TO SELL SMALL NUMBERS OF APC'S WITHOUT NOTIFYING CONGRESS, THIS WOULD BE POLITICALLY UNWISE SINCE IT COULD BE MISCONSTRUED AS AN ATTEMPT BY THE ADMINISTRATION TO MISLEAD THE CONGRESS CONCERNING THE NATURE AND SCOPE OF CONTROVERSIAL MILITARY ASPECTS OF OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH EGYPT. SUCH CONGRESSIONAL PERCEPTION WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE DEVELOPMENT AT ANY TIME, BUT ESPECIALLY SO SHOULD THIS

OCCUR BEFORE RESOLUTION OF THE PROPOSED F-5 SALE.

3. WITH FOREGOING IN MIND, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT
APC'S FOR EGYPT ARE IN THE CARDS DURING THIS FISCAL YEAR.
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